ice, and the institution was greatly weakened and threatened to disintegrate. The many abortive attempts at national and provincial constitutions modeled at least in part on those of the West were a further cause of disorganization. Of national constitutions at least four were adopted in twenty years, some of them confessedly temporary, but at least one hopefully denominated "permanent." Several provinces formed constitutions, usually only to allow them soon to fall into desuetude. Financial solvency was threatened by the pledging of additional sources of revenue to secure foreign loans. New organizations, such as local and national educational associations and chambers of commerce, arose and often had an important voice in political affairs.

The disappearance of the old was hastened by the attempts at introducing the institutions of Communist Russia. For example, the *tangpu,* local committees of the Kuomintang which had Russian prototypes, for a time supplanted in part the village elders and even the magistrate. From 1927 on the country was ruled by the Kuomintang. This party, organized by Sun Yat-sen and his colleagues long before the Russian Revolution, later was modified under Russian influence. Eventually it attained a nation-wide organization, in an ascending scale from the *tangpu* through intermediary regional committees and offices to the National Party Congress. In theory the Congress, made up of delegates from subordinate units, met once a year, in practice not so frequently. In the interim it was represented by a Central Executive Committee. The program under which the party operated called for three stages—a period of military operations to crush opposition, one of political tutelage during which

the nation, under the control of the party, was to be prepared for self-government, and one of constitutional government in which the dictatorship of the party shall have ended and popular democratic institutions come into being. The first period was officially fixed as ending in 1929, and in 1945 the country was still regarded as in the second. In the 1930's progress was made in the formulation of a constitution. What purported to be a final draft was published in 1936. In the 1940's a fairly representative People's Political Council became a recognized voice for criticism and constructive proposals.

The Nationalist Government, established at Nanking in 1927,